

We Care

Because nothing else matters!

Dear Friends & Donors of We Care

On 30th January 2007, We Care celebrated its **8th birthday**. 2007 has been a very good year for We Care. The year has been amply blessed by the Almighty and supported by you, our dear friends. Our programmes are shaping up well and our activities are expanding – *reaching out in love and service* to more and more people. As we close 2007 and usher in 2008, it is time for us at We Care to remember each and every one of you with immense gratitude and appreciation. It is because of your generous hearts and hands that we have been able to continue to reach out to hundreds of people who need help so desperately. You are indeed a very special person - persons who **truly care**.

14th APRIL 2007 – A DAY TO REMEMBER

On this day we inaugurated our office-cum-programme centre “Pratiksha Nivas”, at Thavarekere, Bangalore. *Pratiksha Nivas* means *place of hope*. We pray that this place may truly become a place of hope for many people in the years to come. After a long wait we were able to realize our dream. This dream was possible because of your generous contributions. I express my sincere thanks to every donor, benefactor and friend who made *Pratiksha Nivas* possible, especially, **Missionszentrale der franziskaner**, Bonn, Germany and **Amici di Raoul Follereau**, Bangalore.

The building was blessed by his Grace, Most Rev. Bernard Moras, DD, the Archbishop of Bangalore and was inaugurated by Mrs Theresa D’Souza, Foundress, We Care, in the presence of many friends and well-wishers at a simple yet meaningful ceremony. The Archbishop in his speech, urged the members of We Care to **be like lamps who will bring light into the darkness of people’s lives**.

The second part of the occasion was a social function through which we were able to bring awareness among the public about the plight and the rights of the disabled. Eminent former Justice, A. J. Sadashiva was the chief guest of the function. Shimoga Subbanna, the noted Kannada singer, added flavour with his



songs. Dr. Nagendra Prasad, a prominent social worker, Mr Muniswamy, an eminent community leader, M.V. Jose, Representative of Aifo, B.H. Shridhar, from Vijay Karnataka and other dignitaries were present at the function. During the function

some persons with disability were given aids and appliances, like tri-cycle, canes, etc.

We express our thanks to the Archbishop and all the dignitaries for gracing the occasion.



Having our own premises has made a big difference to our work and activities. We now have more space, better facilities and a proper environment to interact with people.

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As in previous years, we continue to focus on two main programmes: **EDUCATION & PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**.

EDUCATING CHILDREN IS PARTICIPATING IN NATION BUILDING

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE: During the academic year 2006-07 we were able to reach out to over 400 children, assisting in their education: tuition fees, books, uniforms, mid-day meals, transport and other expenses. The total expenditure towards education assistance in 2006-07 was **Rs.7,41,361/-**

Students from St. Paul's High School and Joseph's Girls High School, Belgaum; St. Maryknoll High School, Barkur, Udupi; Franciscan Institute Higher Primary School, Bangalore; Basic Education for Social Transformation, Wankaner, Gujarat; St. Anthony's High School, Bangalore, Holy Cross School of Nursing, Kamagere. St. Francis B.Ed College and other local schools benefited from these programmes.



NEHRU CHILDREN'S CLUB Today's children are the future of our tomorrow. '*Get organized for the better cause*' is a phrase, which motivated us to organize the children to form the "Nehru Children's Club". Various programmes like evening tuition classes, cultural items, singing, dramas, role-play, music, etc. were conducted for the children. We thank Bros. **Roshan** and **Vimal**, OFM, Bangalore for helping out in the music classes; **Deloitte Pereira** for donating computers, **Willie Fernandes** for donating books, **Madhu Satish** and many others for various contributions.

Health care for the children in the form of **nutritional recovery programme** and Medical check-ups are provided at regular intervals. Nutritious food like ragi-porridge, ragi-mudde, eggs, milk, grains, pulses etc. were served daily to the children.

Celebrating various cultural events and festivals helped the children to develop a broad spirit of tolerance and openness. Various events like Deepavali, Children's day, Teachers' day etc. were celebrated during the year. The children are also encouraged to involve themselves in **social activities** like polio immunizing programmes, cleaning of the surroundings and CBR programmes.

These children look bright and cheerful. They are grateful and highly appreciative of the activities conducted for them. They acknowledge that these programmes have changed their lives for the better. They are now able to study well and feel they have the support to become someone different.

The children's programme is being supported by **AMICI** and the income from **Children's Welfare Fund**. We are grateful to volunteers and friends for their assistance in carrying out this programme.

We Care supports a **Nursery Class** run for about 60 poor children from the local areas. We Care provides the financial support while the FMM sisters look after the administration and management. We thank the **Sr. Lily D'Souza**, Headmistress; **Mrs. Meenakshi**, Teacher and **Mrs. Thomas Rose Mary**, Caretaker.

BASIC EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME : In collaboration with the Sisters of the **Premal Jyothi Convent, Wankaner**, Gujarat, FCC We Care has been able to educate 100 children in the rural areas of Gujarat. The children are selected from the nearby villages and sent to local schools. Common tuitions and cultural activities are conducted for the children. In the year 2006-07 the total expenditure on this programme was approximately **Rs.60,000/-**



NURSING EDUCATION : In collaboration with the **Holy Cross School of Nursing, Kamagere**, Karnataka, We Care was able to educate many young girls in the **nursing profession** during the year.

MID-DAY MEALS : were provided for over 100 children in Maria Kirana Creche, Bangalore and nutrition for about 15 children of the Nehru Children's Club. The expenses for this programme were met by **AMICI Di Raoul Follereau**, the **Soroptomists International Project, Bangalore** and **individual donations**. Our sincere thanks to all our collaborators and especially to **Maria Seva Sangha** for their assistance in carrying out some of these programmes.

AAHARA: is a new programme, adopted by We Care, in favour of the malnourished children studying in three government schools, namely the Government Primary School, Doddabele, Kengeri (61 children), Government Urdu Higher Primary School, Kengeri (176 children), and Government Primary School, Gopal Nagar, Kengeri (125 children). Every day, each child will receive 100gms of *Aahara*, i.e. nutritious powder made from five pulses. The entire process is managed and carried on through Mahila Shakti and the Anganwadi network established in the area. The programme is being supervised by **Mrs. Anitha Khan**, our social worker. The total cost of the programme is Rs.2,53,782 for 8280 kgs of food.

COMPUTER EDUCATION: We thank **IBM India Ltd.**, (especially Vinod Nair), for their generous donation of Rs.40,000/- towards the purchase of computers for the education of children. The computers were blessed on the 14th April 2007 and made available to the children.

We Care donated three computers to St. Francis Higher Secondary School, Basen, Chattisgarh, for the education of children hailing from the tribal and rural region.

PREMODAYA: We Care has associated itself with Premodaya, Bangalore to educate the children of prisoners. During the year 12 young school girls received assistance. We are grateful to Sr. Clarissa who is involved in this work.

HANDS OF HOPE, IRELAND: In collaboration with We Care has undertaken the education of poor children in the village schools of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Susaipuram and Government Higher Secondary School, Panakahalli, both in TN. Besides some poor students will also receive assistance to pursue vocational courses like B.Ed, nursing, etc. Our thanks to **Mrs Elizabeth Hitchcock** and her friends in Ireland, **Fr. A. Vincent**, Parish Priest, Panakahalli, **Peter and Janet Aranha**, who coordinate this programme and all the benefactors of Hands of Hope.

Funds for carrying on the education assistance have been received from **Amici di Raoul Follereau**, Bangalore; **John & Theresa D'Souza Memorial Education Fund**; **Velthoria & George Sequeira Education Fund**; **Osborne & Ella D'Lima Memorial Education Fund**, **Cecilia Thomas Memorial Education Fund**, **We Care 4 Children Fund**, **Hands of Hope**, Ireland and many **individual donors** who have sponsored the education of children.

MEMORIAL AND CORPUS FUNDS: We are grateful to many people who have supported activities like Education, Health Care, etc., by setting up memorial funds in We Care. During the year three new funds were set up. First, **Bonaventure & Lily D'Souza Memorial Fund** by Beatrice Noronha to honor the memory of her sister and brother-in-law. Second, **Amanda & Amber Charity Fund**, set up by their parents Anand and Shirin Monterio, Canada. Anand and Shirin set up this fund with a view to assist the many charitable activities of We Care and also to instill in their two young daughters a love and concern for the poor. Third, **Valerie Peters Memorial Fund** set up in her memory by her sisters Vineeta, Shalini and Malini.

This the story of Valerie. Valerie was born a normal child, active and intelligent. At the age of 4 years she developed high fever for over a month, which led to poliomyelitis leaving her with a cross paralysis affecting her left arm, right leg and spinal cord. She could not walk for almost 15 years and had to be carried everywhere. Her brain however was not affected and her intelligence

had no boundaries. Despite her frail physical state she studied up till M.A. and all exams and flying colours. Her fingers crocheted, embroidered and dexterous skill precision. She game of scrabble, bridge. She loved parties, was bright – she loved life and all its colours.



Despite her frail state she never complained about aches and pains, which she must have suffered. Toward the end, Valerie could not cross the room even with her calipers. Her heart and left lung had started malfunctioning. Lying on her bed, she bore her suffering cheerfully and prepared herself for going to meet her God. The candle blew out in a second. Though we miss her presence we thank the Lord for the years he gave Valerie. We thank Him for the years of being together. Her life has been a lesson for us. May her soul rest in peace. – Vineeta.

Besides the funds mentioned under various activities above, our other funds are: **Prudente and Fatima Menezes Memorial Charity Fund**; **Beatrice and Charles Noronha Memorial Charity Fund**; **We Care Education Fund**; **Edith & John Coutinho Memorial Charity Fund**; **Maureen & Kevin Colaco Charity Fund**; **Dr D Y N Murthy Memorial Fund**; **Shirley & Maurice D'Mello Memorial Charity Fund**; **Annam Manikkathan Memorial Charity Fund**; **Rosario Vincent & Natalia Lobo Charity Fund**, **St. Anthony's Charity Fund**, **Leprosy Patients and Families Fund**.

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (CBR) FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD'S) : The CBR programme is carried out in over 44 villages of Urban Bangalore, South Taluk. Through the door-to-door survey and information received from the local leaders and government departments, we identified 1012 persons with disabilities.

Various programmes were conducted for the people with disabilities which included the World Disabled Day celebrations; awareness programmes for school children, teachers and women's groups; awareness on leprosy; formation of self-help groups for the disabled; home based education; social security programmes; providing aids and appliances; etc.



The following benefits were provided to persons with disability: Training of staff members 12; 34 Training programmes for general awareness covering over 3400 persons; 88 persons were issued medical certificates and train concession passes; 34 students received government scholarships; 15 persons received home based education; 62 persons received therapeutically services; 48 persons received aids and appliances (i.e., hearing aids, crutches, calipers, etc.)

The CBR programme is carried on with the help of our well trained and motivated staff led by our CBR Programme Coordinator, **Sagayaraj**. Our field staff consists of **Jayamani, Amala, Leelavathy, Meena, Premila, Chandrashekar (visual impaired), Manjula, Deepa, Swetha, Muniamma, Shashikala, Micheal Anthony and Manjamma**. Mr Ramesh from SMRAB, comes twice a month as a resource person. Our volunteers, **Narsimhamurthy, Soundarraj** and others. We are grateful to our staff, Resource person and Volunteers for their dedicated service.

During the year, We Care supported the care of mental patients carried out at Varanasi, run by the **IMS Fathers** and **FCC sisters**.

We are grateful to various NGO's, organizations, institutions: (governmental and non-governmental), for their assistance, support and encouragement towards the persons with disability. Rotary Club, Peenya, Local Primary Health Centers, Bangalore; Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital, Bangalore; Women's and Child Welfare Centre, Bangalore; Shri Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bangalore; Thirumurthy Rural Development Centre, Kanakapura; Police Department, Bangalore; Y's Men's Club, Jayanagar, Bangalore and OFM Brothers, Bangalore.

Our CBR programme is entirely supported and financed by **Amici di Raoul Follereau (Trust)**, Bangalore, and so our thanks to **Jose M. V. Administrator**, and the staff of Amici. In a special way we also thank **Jayanth, Project Coordinator**; **Dr. Mani Mozhi, Health Coordinator**, **Patrick, Accountant**; **Lucy, Office Assitant**, and **Krishna**.

OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES: The total expenditure towards Other Charitable Activities (Health Care, Casual help, etc.) in 2006-07 was approximately Rs. 81,770/- **Health Care:** expenses supported by proceeds from **Vida and Douglas Memorial Health Care Fund**, **Mabel Rodricks Memorial Fund** (for diabetic patients). **Care for Cancer Patients:** expenses supported by proceeds from **Geetha & Lawrence Rebello**,

Bangalore, **Karen Maryann Pereira** Memorial Lukemia/Cancer Fund and **Rita Nazareth** Memorial Charity Fund **Care of Senior Citizens** – assistance towards monthly rations of 7 senior persons, supervised by Mrs Celine Soans. **Care of those in need of Housing:** with the support and collaboration of Hands of Hope, Ireland, nine houses will be repaired / renovated for very poor farmers in the village of Panakahalli, TN.; **Care of Prisoners;** **Care for the poor Care of Woman and child and Widows** is supported by the **Women's Welfare Fund** and **Dr. Jeanette Pinto Memorial Fund**.

Our gratitude to **Celine Soans, Sr. Hilda and FMM Novices, Sr. Lily Pereira, FMM**, Prison Ministry Bangalore, and many others who have given us their valuable support in carrying out these programmes.

WOMAN & CHILD PROGRAMME: PREMANKUR: "Every child born into our world, brings a message that God still loves us! *Premankur, A seedling of love*, is a new venture supported and carried on under We Care. Steered by its single minded mission of **love in action**, a group of like-minded women pool their resources in time, talent and money to clothe some of the hundreds of newly born babies, whose parents cannot afford to wrap them even in swaddling clothes. The fruits of their labour, in the form clothing (both for mother and child) are **gifted** at different maternity hospitals and shelter homes. We hope that this initiative will inspire many other women to reach out in love to these less fortunate women and their little **bundles of joy!**

Our gratitude to the volunteers of Premankur programme for their commitment and love for the little ones who come into our world. For more details on how you can participate in this effort please contact any of our volunteers: Aida D'Costa (25469239) * Carol Beck (25475747) * Yvonne Pereira (25473929).

VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS OF WE CARE have been supporting us in many different ways. Many of them have also worked hard to raise funds by conducting activities like mini-fetes, charity-bazars, etc. Besides those already mentioned elsewhere, we gratefully acknowledge the services and support of Callistus Fernandes, Gladys D'Souza, Mildred and Jacqueline Sausman, Mary & Ravi Joseph, Regina & Ambrose, Nirmala Charles, Cecilia Jude, Dora D'Souza, Voilet Pais, Irene Tilak, Maureen, Kevin, Keith & Conrad Colaco, Mrudula & David Lewis, Anita Pelgrim and family, Jonas, Directions-Printers and many others. A special thanks to Vinod Nair of IBM India Ltd. and friends of Y's Men Club, Jayanagar.

TRUSTEES: I express my gratitude to our **Trustees:** Jose M V, Fr. Daniel S, Angeline Sunderraj Pradhan, Celine Soans, Rochele Lobo, Gerard D'Silva and Joseph Sequeira who have generously supported us with their time, energy, advice and guidance.



We remember all our donors, well-wishers, benefactors, staff, volunteers and supporters, in our daily prayers. We hope and pray that God Almighty may bless each one of you and your family members in a special way. We also pray that God Almighty may reward your generosity in ways that He knows best.

For it is in giving that you will receive.

Dear Friends, donors and benefactors, we feel confident that you will continue to encourage our work with your generous donations and support us with your prayers. We rely on your generosity and goodwill to carry out programmes that benefit the poor and needy.

With best wishes,
Fr. Trevor D'Souza, OFM
Managing Trustee

TAX BENEFITS FOR DONATIONS : All donations made for the programmes of We Care are eligible for tax benefits under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

DETAILS OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Voluntary contributions	26,75,286	22,32,533	22,02,659
Voluntary donations	2,85,623	1,16,100	55,101
Miscellaneous income	39,138	49,240	45,341
Bank Interest	4,26,367	5,10,006	8,26,920
Donations towards Memorial & Corpus Funds	6,68,795	4,38,398	15,25,900
Education Seminars and Programmes	5,04,250	51,700	0
TOTAL INCOME	45,99,459	33,97,977	46,55,921

EXPENDITURE

Education Assistance	12,96,848	13,58,746	7,41,361
CBR (Disability) Programme	3,69,561	3,97,379	4,51,658
Housing, Health, Women, Widows, Senior Citizens, Poor, Self-employment, etc.	89,398	82,034	81,770
Administrative Expenses	88,500	44,482	9,987
Land & Building	2,40,733	6,41,114	10,60,187
Vehicles & Office Equipment	58,380	5,52,840	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	21,43,420	30,76,595	23,44,963

The above details have been taken from our audited accounts. We are grateful to our Auditor, Rohan Miranda, of Lawrence, Tellis Associates, Bangalore. We also thank his staff, especially, Uma Devi, Sunil Corriea and Susan for their valuable guidance and cooperation.



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